

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 11-27 and 30-41 remain in this application. Claims 10, 28-29 have been canceled. Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 20, 24, 31, 32, 35, 36, 39 and 41 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-6, 8, 11-14, 16-27, 30, 31, 33-34, 37-38 and 40.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claims 16 and 17, and claims 25-27. Applicants believe the amendments to the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5 and ending on page 9, line 12, and the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 28 and ending on page 10, line 32, as indicated supra, overcome the objections.

The Examiner has further objected to claims 35-36 and claim 39 as having the following informalities: Claims 35 and 39 lack periods at the end of the sentences, and claim 36 includes an "a" rather than "an". Applicants believe the amendments to claims 35-36 and 39 overcome the objections.

Finally, the Examiner has indicated on the Office Action Summary that the Drawings are objected to. However, no reason for objection was provided by the Examiner. Applicants would be happy to correct any objectionable material in the Drawings should the Examiner provide specific references.

§ 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 for lack of enablement, in that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for a mold having a porous glass substrate and a glass substrate. Applicants have canceled claim 10.

The Examiner has further rejected:

Claim 7, 9, 15, 32 and 36 for not providing proper antecedent basis;

Claims 35 and 39 for a lack of reference to what is being sintered and for lacking proper antecedent basis for "the step of heating";

Claim 41 for not properly differentiating between the mold in which the cullet is disposed and the mold use for vacuum casting.

Applicants believe the amendments to the claims overcome the rejections:

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Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 6 rather than claim 5;

Claim 9 has been amended to eliminate reference to the step of drying;

Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 9 rather than claim 1;

Claim 32 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "the impurities" and to make clear that the impurities are in the porous pre-form;

Claim 35 has been amended to make clear that "a sintering temperature" refers to the porous pre-form, however, Applicants could find no reference to "the step of heating" in claim 35 to which the Examiner has pointed;

Claim 36 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "the impurities" and to make clear that the impurities are in the porous pre-form;

Claim 39 has been amended to make clear that "a sintering temperature" refers to the porous pre-form, however, Applicants could find no reference to "the step of heating" in claim 39 to which the Examiner has pointed; and

Claim 41 has been amended to show that the soot is mixed with a cullet to form an aggregate, the aggregate mixed with a liquid to form a slurry, and the slurry vacuum cast in a mold.

Additionally, claims 6 and 20 have been amended for the reasons given for claims 35 and 36;

Claim 24 has been amended to replace the semi-colon at the end of the sentence with a period;

Claim 31 has been amended to change the "a" in "...sintered to form a least..." to "at";

§ 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by US Patent 5,866,062 (Mortiz, et al.).

Applicants have canceled claim 28.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,521,129 (Campos-Loriz, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,830,802 (Ito, et al.).

Applicants have canceled claims 28 and 29.

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Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims 1-9, 11-27 and 30-41 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicants believe that an extension of time of one month is necessary to make this Response timely. However, should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Kevin M. Able at 607-974-2637.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED

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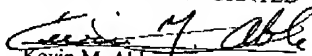
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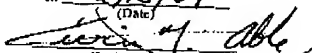
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